

WIPP Quick Facts (As of 12-10-07)

6,306

Shipments received since opening

52,364

Cubic meters of waste disposed

96,458

Containers disposed in the underground

URS Corporation completes acquisition of Washington Group International

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – November 15, 2007 – URS Corporation (NYSE: URS) today announced that the Company has completed its acquisition of Washington Group International, Inc. (NYSE: WNG) for a total purchase price of approximately \$3.1 billion. The closing of the acquisition follows approvals by URS and Washington Group stockholders at each company's special meeting of stockholders held earlier today.

A familiar face in a familiar place: Vernon Daub talks about being CBFO's new deputy manager



This is like déjà vu all over again.
–Yogi Berra

Newly appointed as CBFO deputy manager, Vernon Daub can't help feeling like he's been here before.

Turn back 20 years and Daub was the deputy for Arlen Hunt for the DOE's WIPP project. Then, he became the deputy manager for George Dials when the project was elevated to the Carlsbad Area Office. He spent 10 years working in the private sector and returned to DOE in 2005. And now, CBFO Manager Dave Moody has appointed Daub as the deputy manager for CBFO.

Asked about the odd twist of fate, Daub responds in his usual, relaxed manner.

"That's just the way it works sometimes," he laughs. "I didn't intend for that to happen, but it's turned out well."

Having worked with so many managers with such diverse leadership styles, Daub attributes his success to being able to provide his boss with the information he needs.

"My job as deputy is to support the manager's policies and to ensure decisions I make are consistent so that we are able to move the project in the same direction."

One of the biggest challenges Daub says he faces is building a culture at the CBFO.

WIPP employee published in international review journal

Norbert Rempe (WTS) recently authored a peer-reviewed paper that was published by Progress in Nuclear Energy. The paper, titled "Permanent Underground Repositories for Radioactive Waste," addresses underground repositories for radioactive waste in several countries.

In his paper, Rempe takes the position that deep geologic isolation of radioactive waste is effective, safe and compatible with responsible environmental stewardship.

"Like many other organizations, we're experiencing turnover. As we fill those positions, we face competition from other projects for some very bright people. I want to help build a work environment where everyone has a meaningful role and where we operate efficiently as a business, but also have fun."

Daub's own style will go a long way toward that goal. His even-tempered approach to dealing with WIPP's challenges is well known.

"I believe in communication and teamwork. Whether it's within CBFO or among the WIPP participants, when we're working together we achieve our best."

So does anything make Vernon Daub lose his cool? He laughs at the question.

"I prefer a calm, logical conversation."

Daub's educational background is diverse and demonstrates his belief in continuous learning. He has a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Evansville, a master's degree in industrial engineering from New Mexico State University, and two more master's degrees obtained while working in Ohio from the University of Findlay – one in business administration and the other in environmental management.

But Daub doesn't focus on degrees hanging on a wall. He looks at them as just another part of the learning process.

Simulated incident focuses on RH-72B recovery



During the exercise, Sullivan Crane staff members positioned the RH-72B training unit on cribbing.



CAST and Visionary Solutions' drivers watch as members of the staff of Sullivan Crane of Hobbs, NM, remove the 24,600-pound RH-72B training unit from its trailer during a simulated recovery exercise.

Practice was the word of the day when WIPP's external emergency management staff simulated a transportation incident in Hobbs, New Mexico, involving the RH-72B shipping container. The exercise, which occurred in late November, tested Sullivan Crane's RH-72B recovery capabilities.

As part of the exercise, the sturdy container was safely lifted by crane and secured on a flatbed trailer.



The training unit was positioned and secured on a trailer ready to be moved from the scene of the simulated event.

"The task was completed successfully," says Bill Mackie, CBFO manager of intergovernmental affairs. "They followed procedures and were very deliberate in their steps. The recovery exercise provided valuable experience for everyone involved."

Participants included representatives from CBFO, WTS, Sullivan Crane and the two trucking companies that transport waste to WIPP: CAST Specialty Transportation Incorporated and Visionary Solutions, LLC.

Training exercises are conducted at WIPP and along transportation routes to maintain readiness among WIPP employees and first responders in the event of an emergency. This was the first time the RH-72B was used for such an exercise.

CEMRC Director co-authors book on energy needs

Carlsbad Environmental Monitoring & Research Center Director James Conca and his wife, Judith Wright, have recently published a book on Amazon.com.

The book, titled *The GeoPolitics of Energy: Achieving a Just and Sustainable Energy Distribution by 2040*, is being described by the publisher as a powerful and timely endeavor that picks up where Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* leaves off.

Based on lectures Conca delivered recently, the focus of the book is future energy distribution to meet global energy demand.

Warm wishes for the holiday season



The 2007 Blanket Brigade is underway! Each year, WTS sponsors the community service project to loan out blankets to visitors as they board the boats for the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce's Christmas on the Pecos event. Staffing the Blanket Brigade requires about 400 volunteer hours. Volunteers from WTS and Washington Regulatory and Environmental Services volunteer their personal time to brave the cold and hand out the blankets. Last year the Blanket Brigade offered blankets to about 16,800 visitors. The service project will continue through New Year's Eve. Pictured above are Nancy and John VandeKraats. John works for WTS Engineering.

More deputy news:

Pat Yocum appointed WTS deputy general manager

"Who's going to be your deputy?" asked several employees at the last round of employee meetings. Although WTS General Manager Farok Sharif had already made his choice, the approvals weren't in place, so he was unable to answer the question. Soon afterward, everything fell into place for an official announcement.

Sharif's choice was Pat Yocum, a 37-year veteran of the U.S. Navy nuclear program, domestic and international commercial nuclear power electrical generating facilities and DOE sites. He most recently served as project manager for several treatment technologies projects for Washington Group International.

Yocum's current challenge?

"Finding a house," he says with a smile.

Yocum's wife Pam arrived in Carlsbad this week and they started working with a local realtor to find a house.

"He'll be glad to get out of a hotel," she joked. Yocum has been living out of a suitcase since arriving November 12.

"But seriously," Yocum adds, "I'm getting myself up to speed at WIPP so I can start earning my keep."

The Yocum's are moving from the Richland, Wash. area and are ready to get settled in Carlsbad.

"We have lived in similar communities before," says Yocum. "We're looking forward to living in a small, close-knit community."

They also have plans to enjoy the Chamber of Commerce's Christmas on the Pecos event.

"I'm a Navy guy and a boater," he adds. "Of course, I've got to ride the boat!"



WTS Deputy General Manager
Pat Yocum

Numbers chief outnumbered



WTS Chief Financial Officer and Green Bay Packers fan Darold Haug got some ribbing from members of his Business Management staff on game day. The staff personally delivered an envelope to Haug while decked out in Dallas Cowboy jerseys. The Cowboys won the game that night 37 to 27, but Haug may have the last laugh ... he signs their paychecks.

Pictured from left to right are Jan Terpening, Alisa Cass, Stephanie Quintela, Donnie Rodriguez, Darold Haug, Shari Cullum, Dirk Roberson, Orlando Franco and Kim Greer.

WIPP Form: A tool for continuous improvement

We have a long history of an effective safety culture at WIPP. We also have a long history of effective programs and mechanisms to ensure a work environment that is safety focused. These programs include the Open Door Policy, the Suspend Work Policy, the Employee Concerns Program, the Safety Hotline and, of course, the WIPP Issues Management Program.

The WIPP Form is a tool used to capture, evaluate and track the resolution of issues. WIPP Forms may address issues of both high and low significance, including conditions adverse to quality that require reporting by the quality assurance program, the Price-Anderson Amendments Act, the Worker Safety and Health Plan (10 *Code of Federal Regulations* 851) or other reporting entities (e.g., U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Energy).

All WIPP personnel are responsible for the identification of issues that may require correction, improvement or management attention and the submission of a WIPP Form. Prompt notification of issues allows management to prioritize and focus resources to best address the issues having the greatest potential for:

- ⌘ Posing adverse risks to the environment and human health
- ⌘ Adversely impacting the quality, safety and reliability of WIPP operations
- ⌘ Affecting the ability to meet quality requirements

The WIPP Form is also used to suggest safety improvements. WP 04-IM1000 Issues Management Processing of WIPP Forms explains the process for you to be proactive in the continuous improvement of our safety culture and in creating a work environment that is safety focused. Please use the issues management system—it helps us all!

Submitted by WTS Quality Assurance

A letter from Santa



Santa visits with Ethen Fierro, son of Amy Fierro (WTS) and grandson of Tommy Richey (WTS).

Note: Santa sent the following letter to Judi Michelson of the WTS General Manager's Office, who coordinated the children's party, including the visit from Santa.

Dear Judi,

Please pass along my wish for happiness and health to the entire WIPP family during this holiday season. As always, my visit to the WIPP children's party was very special! The "Elves" who helped you put some special care into assuring that the children enjoyed their morning at the theatre, ensured their own spot on the good list. Special note must be made of the great job done by the camera elves – they know who they are – and are they special!

This year, as always, all of the children (except two – and they know who they are) assured me that they have been "good." I reminded the children that I really do check my list not once, but twice. Bottomline, there is always time to get on the right list. This year's lists for girls focused on dolls, Barbies and Barbie stuff, kittens, puppies, two ponies, iPhones, iPods, laptops and clothes. Boy's wishes included skateboards, bikes, Transformers, cell phones, Xbox360s, and Wiis.

It's a real treat from year to year to watch the children grow from babes in arms to big boys and girls. Each one finds a very special place in my heart. As they grow, so grows my heart.

One of the older guys couldn't make it to the party, so as I flew out of town I dropped by his home to check on him and he seems to be on the mend. Get well young friend! Also, the nursing staff at Carlsbad Medical Center and I were very thankful for WIPP's generous contribution of extra gifts for their pediatric patients.

Mrs. Claus and I wish for you all a joyous and safe holiday season.

SC



Sarah West, daughter of Alisa Cass (WTS) is definitely on Santa's "nice list."



Jaycob and Justyn Nevarez kick back with Santa. The boys are the sons of Jesus Nevarez (WTS).

Interested in WIPP?

If you would like to be notified when TRU TeamWorks is updated with the latest information about WIPP, send an e-mail message to TRUTeamWorks@wipp.ws.

Change to requirements for escorting into areas requiring a TLD

Effective November 14, 2007, the policy for escorting employees, vendors or visitors into areas requiring a thermoluminescent dosimeter (TLD) changed. Qualified radiation workers will be required to sign an escort form only once. The form will then be placed in the employees Dosimetry file. The new policy requires employees to sign a log form located outside the Dosimetry office. The log form tracks escorts and others who have obtained a TLD. This is different from the previous policy, which required qualified radiation workers to sign a new form each time they escorted someone into an area requiring a TLD.

Escorts will now be able to transfer responsibilities to another qualified radiation worker, without immediately notifying Dosimetry. However, the new escort must have a current escort form in their Dosimetry file, the new form can be found in Revision 12 or above of WP 12-DS3326, TLD Assignment, Issue and Retrieval. The new escort is required to ensure his or her name is entered into the logbook outside Dosimetry prior to the end of the shift.

Additional information may be obtained from a member of dosimetry or in WP 12-DS3326, TLD Assignment, Issue and Retrieval.

The U.S. Department of Energy
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

Please send comments and/or
suggestions to: TRU TeamWorks

